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Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Michigan Historical Museum

Lansing, Michigan

September 8, 2008

Call to Order

President Bus Spaniola called the of the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. (Friends) to order at 10:10 AM.

Board Members Present: Keith Harrison, Larry Griffin, , Bus Spaniola, Paul Tarr, , Tom Truscott, Geneva Kebler Wiskemann and Bill Wellman.

Board Members Absent: David Brickey, Adriana Greci Green, Richard Johnson, Charles Seeley, Ralph Sims, Louise Stilwill, and Morris Thomas.

Board Members Excused: Adriana Greci Green, Richard Johnson, Charles Seeley, Ralph Sims, Louise Stilwill, and Morris Thomas.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Chris Dancisak.

Others Present: State Archivist Mark Harvey.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented; motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve as transmitted the minutes from the August 2008 Board meeting; motion passed.

President Report

President Spaniola stated that his activities as President would be reported under various agenda items further into the meeting.

Report of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met with Hillary Firlik of Collette Travel. After a short presentation and a brief discussion, it was decided that the Friends should help promote two travel packages with its membership. The first would be a 5-day Washington DC Smithsonian personnel Guided trip. The cost of this trip \$999 per person. This would be promoted for the 3rd weekend in April 2009. The second trip would be a 9-day Heritage of American trip. This trip would be promoted for the fall of 2009. The cost of this trip would be \$1,449. In both cases, individuals would be responsible paying their way to the designated start point of both trips. It also was decided that the Friends would use a local travel agency to serve as the booking agent for the trips.

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In both instances, both the Friends and Collette would promote the trips (including printing of fliers and advertisement. There would be no minimum number of people required to ensure that the trip takes place. Collette travel would provide material to be placed onto the Friends' webpage. The Friends would receive a 10 percent return for each Friends member who participates on the trip. We would end up giving the travel agency 2 % of this return for its services (The Friends local travel agency that would be used will be Fab Travel in Lansing – Barb Fencil will be handling this). For the Smithsonian trip, the Friends also would purchase each Friends' member who participates a membership with the Smithsonian magazine. Hillary Firlik of Collette Travel will be presenting about the Washington DC

Friends' members would be able get a 5 % discount on other Collete travel packages (we would provide the Friends members with a number in order to get the discount.

Colette Travel and the Friends also are looking at the development of a Michigan History related travel package. Vice President Tom Truscott is currently working on this.

In a separate issue, the Executive Committee discussed the request for funds from the State Archive for 2,500. In light of the funds already provided to the Archives by the Friends, the anticipated budget for the current fiscal year and the anticipated funding requests for the current fiscal year, it was decided that the Executive Committee should recommend to the Board that the State Archives be provided with \$500.

It was moved and seconded to sustain the Executive Committee's recommendation that the Friends provide \$500 to the Archives; motion passed.

Treasurer Report

The Treasurer report for August was presented.

Balance	7-31-08	10306.38
Deposit	7-14-08	<u>+ 761.40</u>
Total		11067.98

Cashed Checks: Unknown

Checks Written

#1377 Mich Oral History	500.00
#1378 Fayette	16.60
#1379 Walker Tavern	<u>49.60</u>

Total	566.20	- 566.20
AVAILABLE FUNDS (Checking Account)		10501.78

Checks Uncashed

Harbor House Publishers	4.00
State of Mich-refund	40.00

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A motion was made and seconded to table the August Treasurer's report until the October meeting, motion passed.

It also was moved and seconded that the Treasurer be directed to prepare a budget for the current fiscal year and provide this to the Executive Committee before the October meeting, motion passed.

Presentation of Bills

A \$43.00 receipt for reimbursement for the Kerry Chartkoff retirement plaque was presented by President Spaniola. The bill was previously approved by the Board's Executive Committee.

Museum Report New

Chris Dancisak reported that everything is on hold until after the elections in terms of knowing anything more about the budget and the general operation of the Museum. He indicated that they are continuing to seek funding for and delivery of their various programs. He stated that the increase in the minimum wage would have an impact on the amount of money they will have for their programs. On the upside, he stated that Booth Newspapers and Travel Michigan have joined forces with a 16-page insert on the upcoming roadside attraction exhibit to be placed into five Booth controlled newspapers. Finally, he informed the Board of an upcoming Docent symposium to be held at the Museum on November 1st.

Committee Reports

A. *2008 Veterans Day Program Committee (Paul Tarr and Larry Griffin – Co chairs):* It was reported that Tom Wiener will be the speaker for the November Veterans Day program. Arrangements will be made to get him from Rogers City down to the Lansing. Money to take care of the speaker's travel and lodging was voted on at the last meeting. Chris Dancisak indicated that he would be getting the information and notice out to the Veterans' organizations.

B. *Membership Committee (Keith Harrison – Chair).* Committee Chair Keith Harrison reported on the Jackson event and President Spaniola reported on the Corunna event. Both were well attended and many brochures were passed out. A brief write up and pictures were requested for both events for the Newsletter. The next events where the display will be at are presented below.

October 4, 2008. Jeff Haas Trio Musical Fund Raising Program.

State Library/Museum, Lansing 6 PM

Tickets are \$25 in advance (\$30 at the door) [includes two drink tickets]

Board Display staffing: Keith Harrison

October 19, 2008 – Book Signing with Lauri Perkins, author of *Wreak on the Wabash* Program.

State Library/Museum, Lansing 2 PM

The event is free to the public

Board Display staffing:

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November and 1 and 2, 2008 - Barnes and Nobel Book Signing Fund Raiser

One of the two Barnes and Nobel Book Stores in Lansing

Dave Dempsey will be signing his new book on Michigan.

Board Display staffing:

November 7, 8, 2008 - Oral History for Michigan: A Conference

Rogers City, Michigan (Grambau Education Center 251 West Huron Avenue)

Saturday – Times are unknown at this time

Sunday – Times are unknown at this time

All Day Event (both days)

No cost to the Friends to set up display

Contact: Friends' Board Member Geneva Kebler Wiskemann

<gwiskemann@arq.net>

Board Display staffing: Geneva Kebler Wiskemann, Bill Wellman

A motion was made that the Friends see if they can piggy back in terms of display table with the Michigan History Society for the upcoming February 9 - 10, 2009 Michigan Council of Social Studies Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan; motion passed. Larry Griffin will see if this is possible.

C. *Board Nominating Committee (Charles Seeley and Tom Truscott).* No report

D. *Magazine/Military Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair)* No Report.

E. *Grants Committee (Adriana Greci Green - Chair).* No report.

F. *Newsletter Committee (Paul Tarr and Bill Wellman Co-chairs).* President Spaniola requested that the next newsletter was still in need of articles and asked Board members to submit material to Jennifer Sochor.

G. *Fund Raising Committee (Bus Spaniola - Chair).*

Jeff Haas Trio –

President Spaniola indicated that the Friends needed to sell a minimum of 84 tickets.

Chris Dancisak reported that we have obtained a \$500 sponsor from Saturn and the

Board of Water and Light. The piano has been taken care of. Catering will be taken

care of by Izzo's Pub & Pizzeria. We will be taking care of the hotel stay for Mr. George Benson from Detroit, who is the saxophone player.

The total cost of the program is \$4,800 to which we have already paid \$2,700. The Jeff Haas Quintet presents an incredible array of musical styles, from jazz to rock and beyond. Tickets are \$25 in advance (\$30 at the door) and includes two drink tickets. Tickets can be purchased at the WLNZ office, Elderly Instruments or online at brownpapertickets.com.

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Old Business

A. Events.

President Spaniola indicated that he would be going to Flint to talk with the Sons of Italy to help promote the Wreak on the Wabash book signing. The event is October 19, 2008. He also reminded the Board of the dates for the Book Signing event at Barnes and Noble (November 1 – 2, 2008).

B. License Plates. Currently, the bill to establish the license plate is still pending.

C. IRS Group Exemption Application Status. There has been no notification regarding the Friends' letter application to the Internal Revenue Service for a Group Exemption Number.

D. Conservation of Historical Photographs. As previously state, the Board authorized \$500 to go to the Archives for this program.

E. Telephonic Board Attendance. Nothing has changed since the last meeting. The Board's current meeting location on the 1st floor of the Museum does not have telephonic capability.

New Business

There was a brief discussion regarding the Historical Markers along the Lansing River Walk. It was felt that they the Lansing Downtown Authority would not go along with the move.

Keith Harrison displayed a copy of his recently published genealogy book.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Regular Board meeting will be Monday, October 13, 2008, in Lansing.